

RAINFORESTS

Mangrove is a type of rainforest that grows on the edges of seas, lagoons and estuaries.

Cloud forest grows on the sides of mountains and can be hidden in clouds; which keep it continually moist.

Lowland Rainforests grow between the mountains and the coast. They are found in the tropics and are barely affected by seasonal changes.

Temperate rainforest grows outside the tropics. Here the weather is a bit more seasonal; this means it gets wetter and colder in winter, and warmer and drier in summer.

Tropical rainforests are found near the equator. Tropical rainforests are always warm and wet, with high rainfall between 250cm and 450 cm a year. Tropical rainforests are a collection of many types of trees that provide food and a home for lots of different animals.

What does all this humid weather invite?

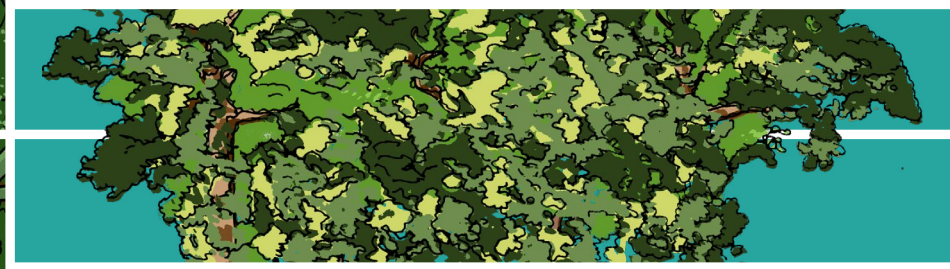
Lots of creepy crawlies, mosquitos, leeches and insects.

Did you know? The Brazilian wandering spider holds a record for being the most venomous spider!

Emergent Layer



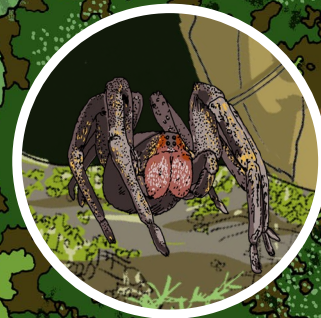
Canopy Layer



Understory Layer



Forest Floor



WORLD
LAND
TRUST

RAINFORESTS

Why are rainforests important?

Biodiversity, eco-tourism to support local economy, trees absorb carbon dioxide and produce oxygen, new species yet to be discovered, forests provide ecosystem services, such as global climate control, maintaining water cycle and storing. Forests are important because they are homes for local people, regulate the climate, produce food and medicines, retain water and provide homes for wildlife.

What threats do rainforests face?

- Deforestation, (from plantations, biofuels, palm oil, soybean, cattle ranching, logging, development, dams, mining, agriculture, building homes, roads and power lines)
- Pollution of drinking water.
- Illegal extraction of plants and animals
- Hunting
- Biodiversity loss, often due to habitat loss.

Key Stage 2

Encourage research and participation by being journalists, local people or an eco-tourism provider.

Encourage students to question what impact loss of rainforests would have, how species rely on each other and the habitat.

Classification of species types, match them between UK and rainforest species. What makes each species suited to that part of the rainforest?

Encourage visits to garden centres, parks or gardens to see the difference between plants and where they come from. Research on rafflesia, pitcher plants, bromeliad or liana. Consider school trips to various botanical attractions.

Encourage taking images from different perspectives as this can be used as a basis for descriptive writing.

Research into the illegal trade of exotic animals and encourage debate, and how it affects the rainforest.

Reduce, reuse, and recycle, make good choices! Buy products with Forest Stewardship Council logo, reduce intake of unsustainably sourced palm oil. Drink rainforest friendly certified tea/coffee/hot chocolate.

Become a rainforest explorer – new species are being discovered, so they need protection!